



H.R. 1642 - Homeless Veterans Housing at Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center Promotion Act

Floor Situation

H.R. 1642 is being considered on the floor by suspending the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Brad Sherman (D-CA) on March 22, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, by voice vote, on April 18, 2007.

H.R. 1642 is expected to be considered on the floor on May 7, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 1642 permits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs ("the Secretary") to enter into an enhanced-use lease at the Department's Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center ("the Center") for a homeless housing center. The Center will comply with these terms and conditions:

- That the Center will provide housing exclusively for veterans;
- That the center will be maintained, for the duration of the lease, as a sober living facility;
- That the Center will be adequately staffed with health care, counseling, and security personnel, taking into account the ratio of such staff to residents, in order to protect residents of the housing project and of the community, and that the minimum staffing ratios shall be specified in an enforceable provision of the lease; and,
- That the center will provide housing to not fewer than 150 and not more than 225 residents.

The bill requires the Secretary to consider proposals for enhanced-use lease from organizations that are determined to meet the qualifications to maintain the Center. If there is more than 1 qualified organization seeking the enhanced-use lease, then the Secretary will enter into a contract with the most qualified organization.

If, after 12 months after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary has not entered into an enhanced-use lease with an organization, then the Secretary:

- May enter into such a lease with a qualified organization providing that the housing project shall be exclusively for veterans during the duration of the lease, with preference given to an organization which housing project shall provide housing to the highest number of residents not exceeding 225; and
- If, after a diligent search, the Secretary is unable to enter into such a lease with a qualified organization that provides that the housing project shall be exclusively for veterans during the duration of the lease, may enter into such a lease with an organization providing that not less than 80 percent of the residents of the housing project shall be veterans throughout the duration of the lease.

Background

An enhanced-use lease is defined in section 8162 of title 38, US Code, as a lease the Secretary may enter into a real property lease that is under the jurisdiction or control of the Secretary.

The Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center (SACC), located in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, is part of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. SACC is the major outpatient facility charged with caring for the 1.4 million veterans living in Northern Los Angeles.

Cost

“CBO estimates that implementing this bill would increase VA’s administrative expenses, which are subject to appropriation, by an insignificant amount. Enacting the bill also would have an insignificant effect on direct spending (the delay in receiving lease payments would be offset by lower spending), but would not affect revenues.” CBO Cost Estimate

Staff Contact

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